

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00078 080721Z

16

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 IO-03 PM-03

L-01 SP-02 EB-03 CU-02 H-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

/050 W

----- 088492

R 080647Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7764

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0078

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN DOMESTIC POLITICS

SUMMARY. DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 7 WITH AMBASSADOR, PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL REVIEWED CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. GREATER PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED IN THE SPRING, BUT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLAN DEAL WITH THEM WITH REPRESSIVE MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN POINTED OUT THAT END OF YEAR PERIOD WAS POLITICALLY QUIET AS HE HAD PREDICTED. BUT, PRESENTLY NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND CHRISTIAN GROUPS, PARTICULARLY, ARE TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE. HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS UNTIL LATE MARCH OR APRIL WHEN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL MOUNT AND STUDENTS RETURN TO UNIVERSITIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS NORMALLY COME FROM FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES AND IT WILL TAKE ABOUT ONE MONTH TO ORGANIZE NEW ENTERING CLASS AT UNIVERSITIES.

2. IN ORDER TO MEET ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO GUARANTEE AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND WON PER DAY FOR MALE WORKERS AND EIGHT HUNDRED WON PER DAY FOR FEMALE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00078 080721Z

WORKERS. NEW BUDGET HAS ABOUT ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS SET

ASIDE TO PROVIDE FOR DAILY LIVELIHOOD AND SUPPORT SAM IL MOVEMENT. THESE SUMS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO ENSURE SOCIAL STABILITY AND ADEQUATE FOOD FOR EVERYONE. PRIMIN MENTIONED THAT OVER NEW YEARS HOLIDAY, DURING TRIP TO COUNTRYSIDE, HE FOUND PEOPLE LIVING BETTER WITH ENOUGH FOOD AND NOW DESIROUS OF BUYING TELEVISION SETS. PRIMIN WENT ON THAT GOVERNMENT STILL EXPECTS POLITICAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN SEOUL AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES. ROKG DOES NOT INTEND TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS WITH REPRESSIVE MEASURES OR UNDERTAKE NEW EMERGENCY DECREES AS RUMORED. INSTEAD, IT WILL APPLY THE SAME TYPE OF REGULAR MEASURES AS IT RECENTLY HAS DONE. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD DISCUSS SPECIFIC MEASURES WITH HIM ONCE THEY ARE FORMULATED.

3. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH PRIMIN, HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT HAN, IN AN ASIDE TO AMBASSADOR, SAID THAT ONE MEASURE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IS REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION. HE STRESSED THAT PRIMIN PERSONALLY IS TRYING TO FOLLOW MODERATE COURSE.

4. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO PRIMIN THAT U.S. CONGRESSMEN RECENTLY VISITING SEOUL HAD PARTICULARLY MENTIONED ADVERSE EFFECT OF BISHOP CHI ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES. PRIMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THIS POINT AND SAID THAT BISHOP CHI PROBLEM WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN TIME. HE SAID THERE WAS NEED FOR BISHOP CHI TO AT LEAST PRIVATELY TAKE SOME STEP OF REPENTANCE AND AGREE TO AVOID ENCOURAGING ELEMENTS ADVOCATING VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF CONSTITUTION.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL00078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750007-0264
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750169/aaaacioid.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN DOMESTIC POLITICS SUMMARY. DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 7 WITH AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, (SNEIDER), (KIM CHONG PIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006